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Tipi, Native American Dancers to Help Celebrate Sights and Sounds of Lakota

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – A traditional Lakota tipi will grace the Illinois Wesleyan University Robert S. Eckley Quadrangle on Wednesday, November 18, as part of a day of teaching and learning in conjunction with Native American Heritage Month.

Events will run from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the Quad for the program called *Sights and Sounds of the Lakota: Interactive Teachings on the Life of the Plains*. Participants can see the raising of a traditional tipi, learn about the medicine wheel and understanding sacred pipe traditions. The day will end with Spirit of the Rainbow Drum & Dancers, a Native American dance troupe that will perform from 5-6 p.m.

The events of the day are free and open to the public.

“It’s important to learn about our history as Americans,” said Roshaudra Ross, acting director of the Multicultural Student Affairs Office at Illinois Wesleyan, which is sponsoring the event. “You cannot get much more into the heart of the history of the people of North America than to learn about Native Americans.”

Ross developed the idea for Sights and Sounds in the fall, and worked jointly with Associate Professor of Anthropology Rebecca Gearhart, who is a board member of Seven Circles (link <http://www.sevencircles.org/>), an educational organization established to promote and support spiritual practices based on the ancient ways of Native American indigenous people.

Sights and Sounds of the Lakota

- 11 a.m. – Raising of the tipi
- Noon-3 p.m. – Participants can help prepare the tipi interior
- 3 - 5 p.m. - Lakota Teachings, including the medicine wheel, life in a tipi, sacred pipe traditions and a spirit fire
- 5 - 6 p.m. Spirit of the Rainbow Drum & Dancers

For further information, contact the Multicultural Student Affairs Office at (309) 556-3412.